

# Tips:

## Additional Water Saving Tips

### Inside

- Check all faucets and pipes for leaks.
- Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket or ashtray.
- Turn off the water while shaving, washing your hands or brushing your teeth.
- Always wash full loads of dishes--or if you wash dishes by hand, don't leave the water running.
- Keep a bottle of cold water in the refrigerator for drinking purposes.
- Wash only full loads of clothes or adjust the water level in your washer for smaller loads.
- Use leftover drinking water on your plants.

### Outside

- Summer Bermuda grass can be watered every third day.
- Water early in the morning (1 to 3 hours before sunrise).
- Adjust sprinklers so they only water your lawn and plants and not the sidewalk, street or side of house.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your walls, driveway and sidewalk.
- Don't leave the water running while washing your car. Use a shut-off nozzle on the hose.
- If you have an evaporative cooler, adjust your runoff so it waters your lawn and plants. *(Be sure to check with your nursery first to see which plants won't be hurt by cooler water).* Consider installing a recirculating pump on your evaporative cooler.

For additional ways to save water, visit:  
[www.chandleraz.gov/water](http://www.chandleraz.gov/water)



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Water Resources/Conservation  
975 East Armstrong Way  
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**City of Chandler**  
**Water Conservation Program**

## Home Toilet Leak Detection



*“I ran all day long!”*

# The likely culprit

*“Toilets are the most likely place for home water leaks, but are often the least noticeable.”*



- 1 Inlet valve
- 2 Bowl refill tube
- 3 Overflow tube
- 4 Float ball
- 5 Lift chain
- 6 Rubber flapper
- 7 Valve seat

**\* Caution:** Before doing dye tab or food coloring test, (as per toilet checklist) remove any in-tank cleaner and flush once. It's been proven that chlorine products placed in the tank may decrease the life of your flapper. If you use in-tank chlorine products, you may want to check the flapper more often.

If your water bill seems higher than normal lately, you could have water leaks in your home. Finding and repairing leaks can be easy and inexpensive. Toilets are the most likely place for home water leaks, but are often the least noticeable.

### How to Check for Home Water Leaks

1. First, locate your water meter. It should be in front of your house by the sidewalk, or behind your house in the alley.
2. Make sure all the water is turned off, both inside and outside. This includes evaporative coolers and swimming pool auto fillers.
3. Read the meter and record the figures.
4. Reread the meter twenty minutes later.
5. If the reading has changed, or you notice any movement of the dials on the meter, then you need to find out where the water is going.

### Checking Toilets for Leaks

First, perform the dye test\*, below.

If you have a leak, check the overflow tube 3. Water should only be within one-half inch of the top of the tube. If not, make appropriate adjustments.

Next, check that the lift chain 5 is not catching on anything. Then check the rubber flapper 6. It could be that it's just not seating properly. Check for corrosion and clean this area. It is recommended that flappers be replaced every three to five years. Most flappers operate efficiently for a few years before they become warped and leak-prone.

### After Repairs

If you made repairs and adjustments, perform the dye test again. If colored water reappears, your toilet may have a pitted valve seat 7. Most home repair stores have easy-to-install replacement kits.

**The Dye Test\***

1. Remove tank lid
2. Remove in-tank cleaners
3. Check overflow tube
4. Flush & wait for tank to refill
5. Drop dye tablets or food coloring in toilet tank
6. Wait 15 minutes

*If color appears in bowl you have a leak.*

**NOTE:** Should you need to replace anything in your toilet tank, carefully turn off the water at the valve next to your toilet. Flush to empty the tank and sponge out remaining water.

### When in Doubt...

If your meter indicates you have a leak and you are unable to locate it, call a local plumber or the City of Chandler Water Conservation office at (480) 782-3580.